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STATINTL

The New 'Spook' Director

John A. McCone has demonstrated his courage of conviction. Becoming chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission in July, 1958, he soon became an outspoken advocate of continuing nuclear testing — at a time when this decidedly was unpopular.

A Republican, he disagreed even with leaders in the Administration that appointed him. That Administration was still smarting under the stinging campaign warnings of Adlai Stevenson and Estes Kefauver on the dangers of nuclear blasts and fallout.

NEVERTHELESS, the newly named director of the Central Intelligence Agency — amiably referred to in government circles as the "spook" organization — kept an open mind. He sat through long, fruitless sessions at Geneva. And after John F. Kennedy's election he agreed with the President-

elect that "one more try" on a ban agreement should be made — the one which Russia cynically broke up by testing unilaterally.

To this background may be added his previous service to government — a Republican who became President Truman's Air Force Under Secretary, and served in other capacities. And to top it off, he goes as an able businessman-administrator into a job, with all of its complexities and ramifications, requiring top-notch administration.

SOME OF THE complexities probably will be eliminated under Mr. McCone. Studies already are under way toward reorganizing the CIA so that in many respects it will lose its "spookiness." They began after the Cuban invasion fiasco.

Allen Dulles, who is leaving as the CIA chief, had let it be known some time ago that he wanted to retire. He and Mr. McCone had worked closely together in the inner circles of the Eisenhower Administration, and he praises Mr. McCone highly. Since Mr. Dulles, above all others, knows the intricacies and the challenges in the intelligence agency, this is a reassuring recommendation.

